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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

75

DIRECT EDITION

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--ROBO-
ROBOTNIK!

KARL BOLLERS WRITER
STEVEN BUTLER PENCILER
PAM EKLUND INKER
JEFF POWELL LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO COLORIST
J. F. GABRIE EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
VICTOR GORELICK MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Proudly present a Sonic The Hedgehog milestone issue
I AM THE EGGMAN!

THOUGH "ROBOTNIK-MACH 2" HAS A NICE RING TO IT, DON'T YOU THINK?
WE'RE TRAPPED!
IT'S SOME SORT OF ENERGY FIELD, TAILS!
SHZAKT
I CALL IT THE "EGG-CELL" AND I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT IT WILL PROVIDE EGG-CELLENT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR STAY!
MUH DADDY USED TO HAVE A SAYIN'--"SOONER OR LATUH, EVERY EGG GETS HATCHED!" OR IN THIS CASE...
...CRACKED!
YEEAAARGH!
BUNNIE...? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU, MA CHERE?!
Ahh...SUCH HEARTFELT DEVOTION FROM THE COWARDLY COYOTE. DON'T FRET--SHE'LL LIVE TO ANNOY YOU ALL WITH HER ACCENT ONCE AGAIN.
ZAAKT
HER ROBOTICIZED ARM ACTED AS A CONDUCTOR WHEN SHE STRUCK THE CELL'S ELECTRICAL FIELD! SHE'S OUT COLD FOR NOW, BUT SHE'S LEARNED HER LESSON!
WHAT'S YOUR GAME, ROBO-ROBOTNIK? YOU'RE A ROBOTICIZED VERSION OF ROBOTNIK FROM ANOTHER ZONE*...
*Alternate reality--JFG
4

...BUT I THOUGHT YOU WENT "HASTA LA VISTA, MISTAH" WAY BACK WHEN!"

MY METALLIC SHELL MAY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED DURING THAT BATTLE...

...BUT MY MEMORY SURVIVED, HEDGEHOG!

"Waaaay back when in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG # 19.. JFG

"AFTER I RETURNED TO MY OWN FUTURE, MY CYBERNETIC CONSCIOUSNESS REMAINED TRAPPED ABOARD AN ORBITAL SPACE STATION, FACING INEVITABLE SHUT-DOWN.

"I WAS IN THAT PREDCAMENT FOR YEARS, UNTIL YOUR REALITY'S ROBOTNIK BECAME STRANDED IN MY ZONE.

"WITH THE TECHNOLOGY AT MY DISPOSAL...

"...I WAS ABLE TO RETURN HIM HOME!"

"It happened back in Ish # 22-- JFG

"WHAT HE DID NOT SUSPECT WAS THAT AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT...

"...I TAPPED HIS MEMORY TO LEARN THE FATE OF THE GIANT-BORG BATTLE-SUIT!

"IT WAS GIANT-BORG WHO HAD GIVEN ME ULTIMATE POWER ALL THOSE YEARS BEFORE" AND IT WAS GIANT-BORG WHO COULD DO SO AGAIN!"

"Again, see Ish. # 19

ROBOTNIK'S *THOUGHTS* REVEALED THAT ALL OF THE BATTLE-SUIT'S *COMPONENT PARTS* HAD BEEN *DISPERSED* ACROSS VARIOUS ZONES.

"AFTER LOCATING THE *PIECE* THAT HAD LAIN *DORMANT* IN THE FUTURE *REALITY* WHERE I WAS TRAPPED, I *REBUILT* A SUITABLE *BODY* FOR MYSELF.

"LIKE "*BOMB*," A RENEGADE *CREATION* OF MINE, I WAS NOW ABLE TO RETURN FROM *OBLIVION* BY USING THE POWER OF *TECHNOLOGY*.

"WITH *THAT* GOAL ACHIEVED, I *IMMEDIATELY* SET ABOUT *DEVASTATING* THE FACE OF THAT FUTURE *MOBOTROPOLIS*... INCLUDING ITS ROYAL *FAMILY*!

"MY *VICTORY* WAS COMPLETE *UNTIL* I LEARNED THAT *YOUR* REALITY'S VERSION OF ROBOTNIK HAD BEEN ULTIMATELY *ANNIHILATED*!"

"SONIC # 30 (ALSO SONIC SUPER SPECIAL # 6)--JFG

"I HAD ERADICATED *MY* SONIC, WHILE *YOU* HAD RIDDEN YOURSELF OF *YOUR* ROBOTNIK! THUS I TRAVELED THROUGH TIME *AND* SPACE...

...TO FILL THE *VOID* LEFT IN *BOTH* OF OUR LIVES!

YOU'RE EVEN *NUTTIER* THAN THE *OLD* ROBOTNIK, *RO"BUTT"*NIK, AND I *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU NEEDED EIGHT *SATELLITES* OF DESTRUCTION TO GET *OUR ATTENTION*!

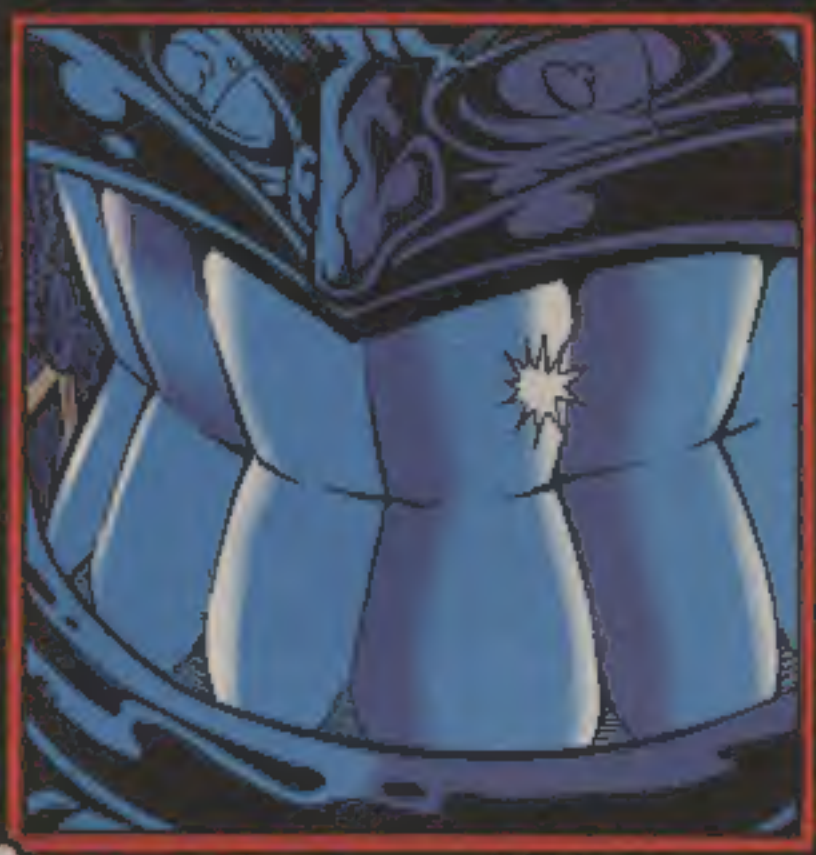
WHY NOT JUST COME OUT AND SAY, "HEY EVERYBODY... I'M HERE! I STINK!"

BLUSTER ALL YOU WISH, *RODENT*-- IT WON'T *HELP*! THE SATELLITES WERE MEANT TO TEST YOUR *PROWESS* AND LURE YOU *AWAY* FROM MOBOTROPOLIS!

LURE US AWAY FROM HOME?

UNNGH... WHUT HAPPENED?

WHY DO THAT?



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"WHY?"

SURRENDER-AND-PREPARE-FOR-COMPLETE-ROBOTIZATION!

SKRAKT

?
KLONK
BACK OFF, YOU BIG BULLY!

FZORCH

THANKS A LOT, FRIEND! THAT DEVICE REALLY PACKS A WALLOP! WHAT DO YOU CALL IT?
EYEWEAR-- NOW COME WITH US!

CASTLE ACORN

IT'S TRUE, SIRE--OUR CITY IS BEING ATTACKED BY NEW AND IMPROVED SWAT-BOTS! NOWHERE IS SAFE!

KING MAXIMILLIAN--I DON'T UNDERSTAND. SAY DOCTOR ROBOTNIK--

DEAD AND GONE GEOFFREY?

SO WE HAD BELIEVED BUT HIS EVIL APPARENTLY CONTINUES. I WANT YOU AND YOUR AGENTS TO ORGANIZE A UNIT OF GROUND TROOPS

AND EVACUATE CIVILIANS TO KNOTHOLE VILLAGE AT ONCE! THERE THEY WILL BE SAFE.

UNCLE NATE. AMY ROSE YOU MUST GATHER YOUR BELONGINGS QUICKLY! WE HAVE TO LEAVE THE CASTLE AT ONCE

WE KNOW

BE CAREFUL MOVING QUEEN ALICIA'S STASIS TUBE MEN--SHE'S VERY ILL AND THAT EQUIPMENT IS VERY DELICATE!

WE HEAR YOU DOCTOR QUACK!

HAS ANYONE SEEN PRINCESS SALLY?

I HAVE

ROBOTNIK!

IT'S ROBO-ROBOTNIK YOU DROWNED CRETIN.

...AND THOSE AREN'T SWAT-BOTS OUT THERE RECLAIMING MY CITY!

THEY'RE CALLED SHADOW-BOTS--MORE EFFICIENT THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS IN EVERY WAY!

AND I BELIEVE YOU KNOW THIS QUINTESSENTIAL QUINTET--SONIC, TAILS, ANTOINE, BUNNIE, AND (DRUM ROLL PLEASE)

PRINCESS SALLY ACORN! WHAT'S THAT, YOUR STATE-LINESS? YOU WEREN'T AWARE THAT DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL AND HER PIP-SQUEAK PEP-SQUAD.

HAD TRAVELED UP TO MOB US ORBIT TO PAY ME A LONG OVERDUE VISIT!" WHAT A POOR FATHER/DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP!

WELL MAYBE THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT AFTER I'VE ROBOTICIZED HER

LOST SM - JEG

ROBOTNIK JULIAN PLEASE SPARE THE CHILDREN

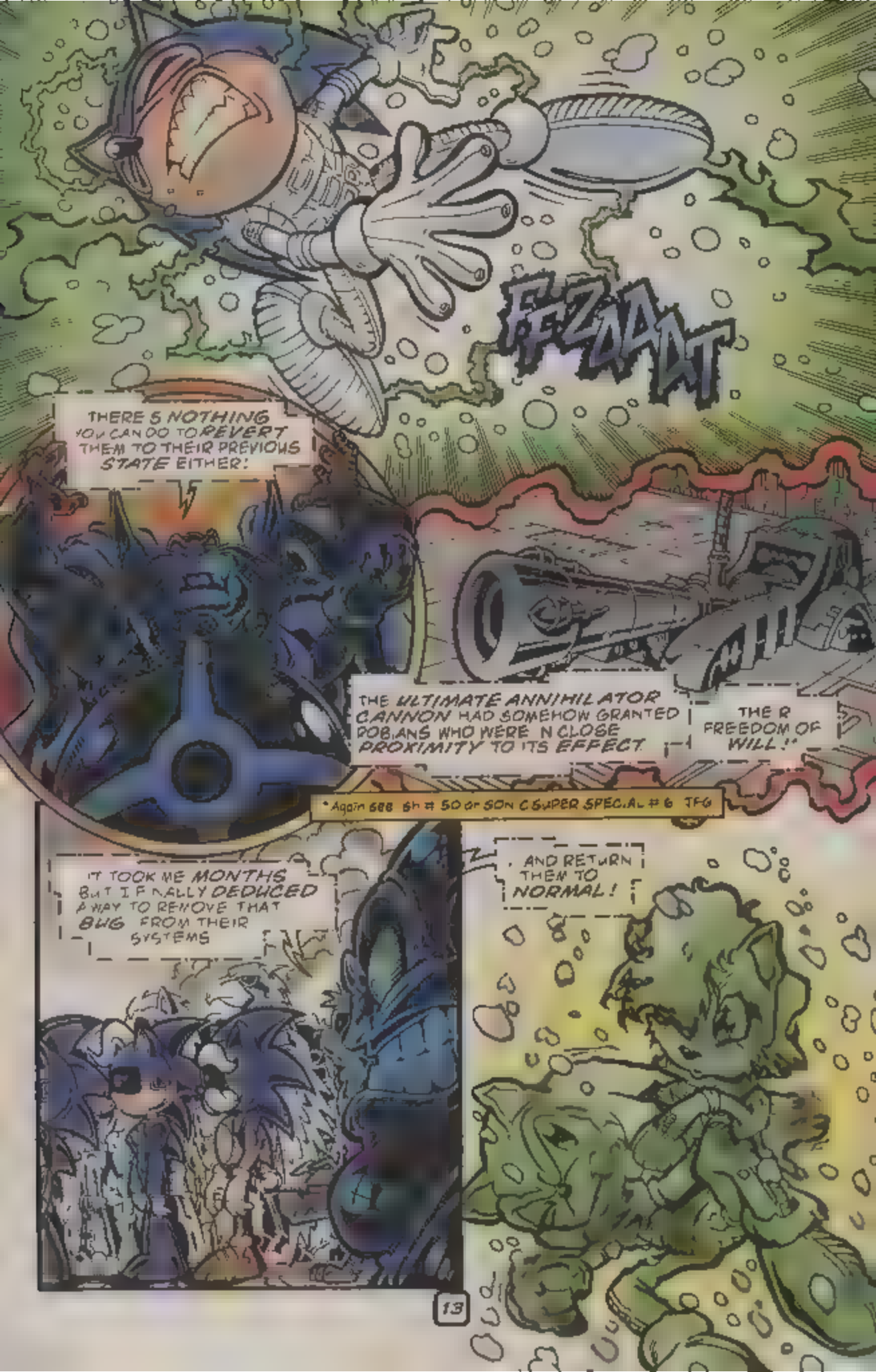
IN THEIR STEAD I OFFER, MYSELF

Hmmm ALLOW ME A MOMENT TO CONSIDER YOUR PROPOSAL ROBOTIC ZE THE MEDDLESOME BRATS.

OR YOU?

SKTHOOM
SORRY SPORT--NO DICE! WHY SETTLE WHEN I CAN HAVE IT ALL? GET THEM, MY SHADOW-BOTS!
ANY ROSE, PRINCE ELIAS! UNCLE MATE STAY BEHIND ME
MOTHER HAS BEEN SAFELY REMOVED FROM THE MED-LAB BUT THE CRYOGEN-COILS FROM HER STASIS TUBE ARE STILL HOOKED UP!
MAYBE THESE "SHADOW-BOTS" COULD DO WITH A BIT OF
"COLD STORAGE!"
ALL RIGHT EVERYONE LET'S GO!

WE'VE FOUND THE MISSING ROBIANS; GANG--AND AFTER WE GET OUTTA THIS "EGG-CELL," WE CAN HELP THEM.
*The robotized Red Mobians mysteriously vanished from Knothole Village in ISH # 75--1F6
I'M NOT SURE THEY WANT TO BE HELPED, SONIC--ROBO-ROBOTNIK HAS ROBBED THEM OF THEIR WILL TO DO ANYTHING BUT OBEY HIS COMMANDS!
SHE'S RIGHT AS ACID RAIN ON THAT COUNT, RODENT--BUT IF YOU'RE HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME BELIEVING HER
I'VE RETURNED WITH A FEW FAMILIAR FACES JUST IN CASE YOU NEEDED TO HAVE THE POINT BROUGHT HOME TO YOU!
MEET THE NEWLY RE-PROGRAMMED HEDGE-HOG FAMILY, SONIC--YOUR MOTHER, YOUR FATHER, YOUR UNCLE AND EVEN YOUR PET.
"EXIST TO SERVE ME AS MINDLESS SLAVES!"
NOOOOOO!
12


FZAAAT
THERE S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO REVERT THEM TO THEIR PREVIOUS STATE EITHER!
THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR CANNON HAD SOMEHOW GRANTED ROBIANS WHO WERE N CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ITS EFFECT
THE R FREEDOM OF WILL!"
*Again 688 Sh # 50 or SON C SUPER SPECIAL # 6 TFG
IT TOOK ME MONTHS BUT I F NALLY DEDUCED A WAY TO REMOVE THAT BUG FROM THEIR SYSTEMS
AND RETURN THEM TO NORMAL!

MOBOTROPOLIS.

SURRENDER--

--AND-PREPARE-FOR-COMPLETE-ROBOT-IZATION!

YOU BATTERY OPERATED BLOKES HAD BETTER STEP A WAY FROM ROSIE AND HER YOUNG CHARGES

?

...OR LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO FACE HIS MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE!

BOMB-- SHOW THEM WHAT I MEAN!

PING PING PING

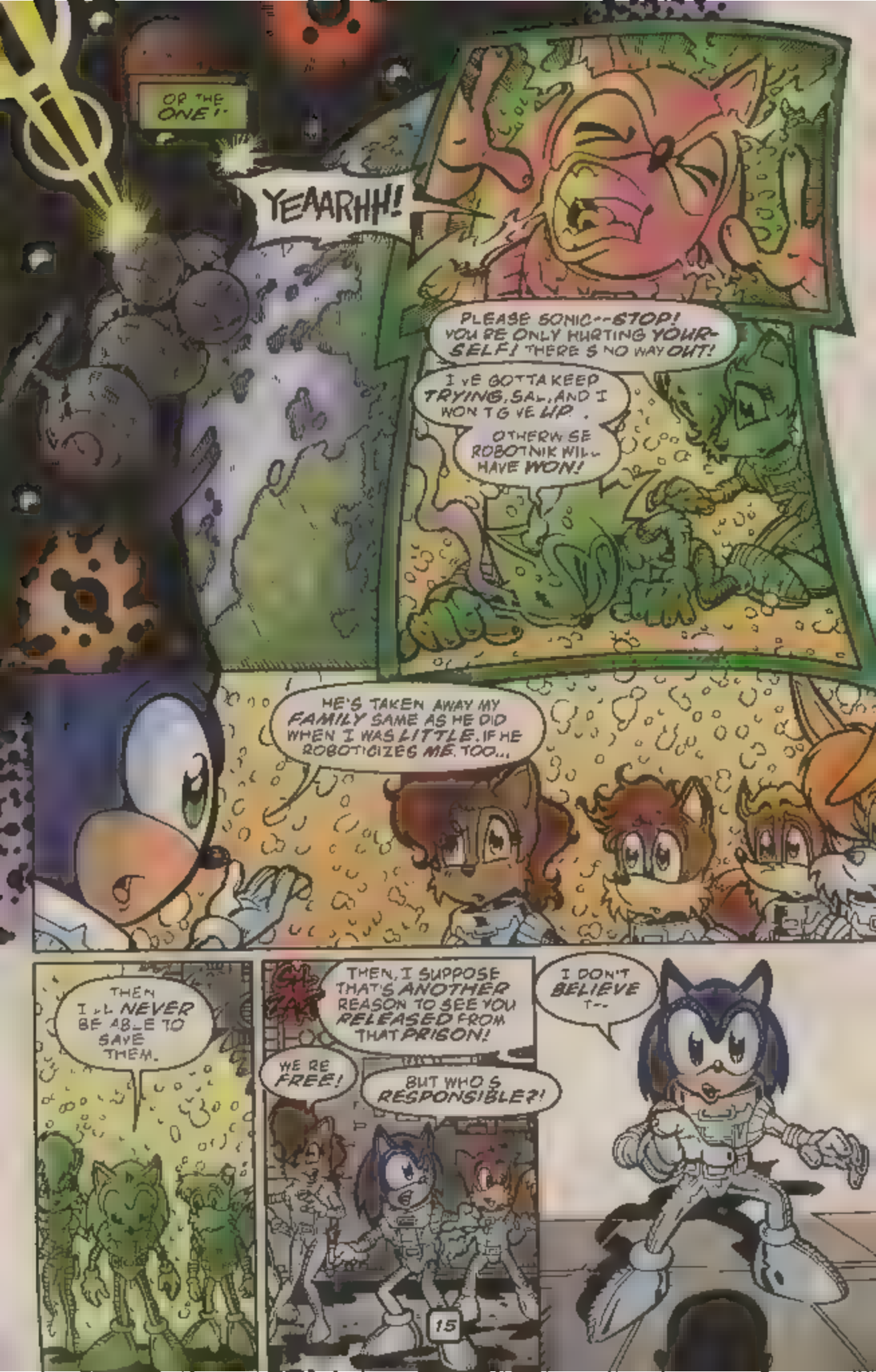
KRA-BOOM

GET THOSE KIDS OUTTA HERE TEAM--I'LL HOLD THE BOTS OFF!

VALDEZ!

WE MUST GO TO HIS AID OR--

WE MUST GET EVERYONE TO SAFETY, GEOFF--THE NEEDS OF THE MANY OUT-WEIGHS THE NEEDS OF THE FEW


OR THE ONE!
YEAARHH!
PLEASE SONIC--STOP! YOU'RE ONLY HURTING YOURSELF! THERE'S NO WAY OUT!
I'VE GOTTA KEEP TRYING, SALL, AND I WON'T GIVE UP.
OTHERWISE ROBOTNIK WILL HAVE WON!
HE'S TAKEN AWAY MY FAMILY SAME AS HE DID WHEN I WAS LITTLE. IF HE ROBOTICIZES ME, TOO...
THEN I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SAVE THEM.
THEN, I SUPPOSE THAT'S ANOTHER REASON TO SEE YOU RELEASED FROM THAT PRISON!
WE'RE FREE!
BUT WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?!
I DON'T BELIEVE I--

SNIVELY?!

GUILTY AS CHARGED HEDGEHOG UNLIKE THE PRISONBREAK FROM DEVIL'S ISLAND.

...THIS IS ONE ESCAPE THAT I CAN TAKE FULL CREDIT FOR

WE'RE NOT BUYING IT, SNIVELY NO WAY ARE WE GONNA TRUST YOU--YOU'RE ROBOTNIK'S FAVORITE NEPHEW!

DON'T BE FOOLED--THAT MONSTROSITY ISN'T THE UNCLE JULIAN I KNEW AND DESPISED! AFTER HE SHIPS THE ROBIANS BACK TO THE SURFACE

...HE INTENDS TO ROBOTICIZE ME AS WELL!

EEP!

WELL HOWZABOUT YOU SET ABOUT EXPLAININ'...

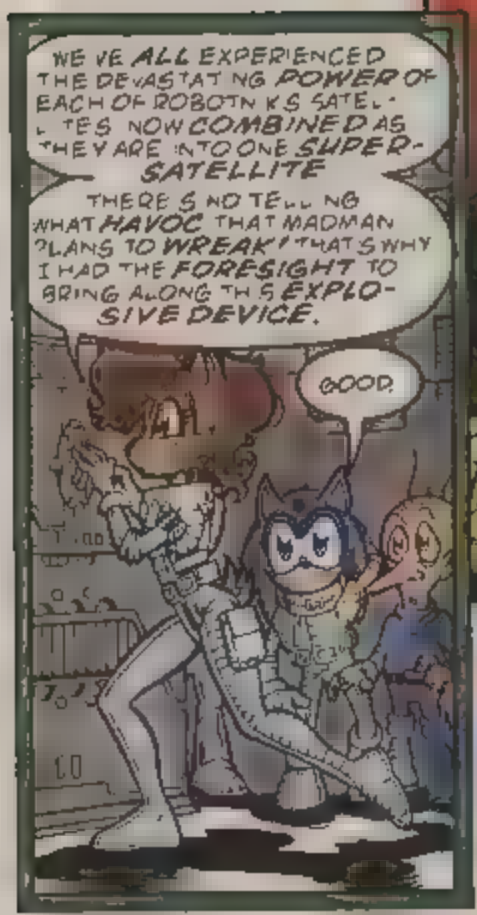
'SEE ISH #62 - JFG

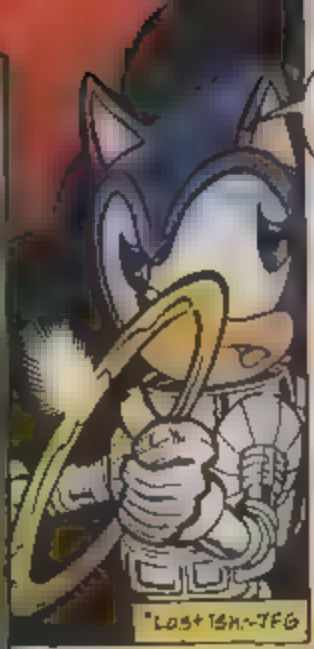
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY HOPE TO ESCAPE WITHOUT YOUR AID!

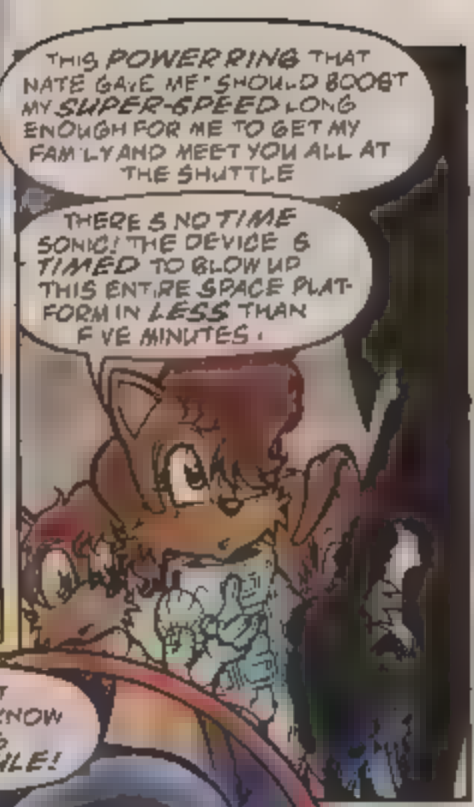
WHAT YOU NEED US FOR?

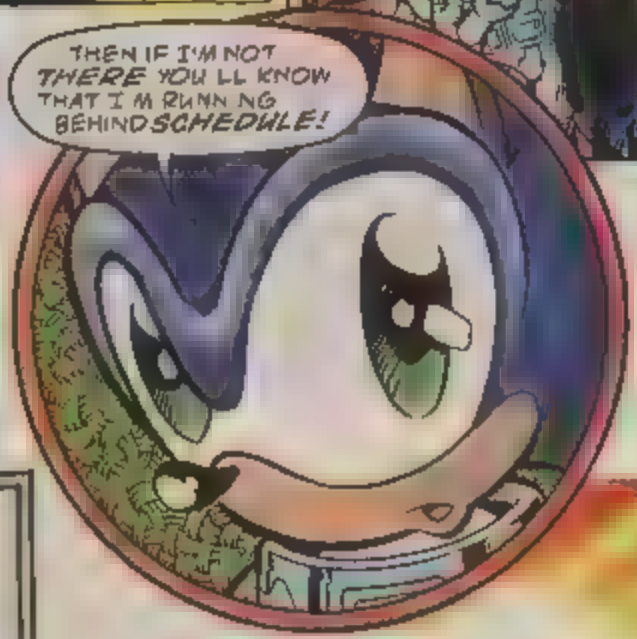
HE'S RIGHT GANG--WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE JUST GIVE ME A SEC TO QUICKLY PUNCH IN THE COORDINATES ON NICOLE'S KEYPAD..

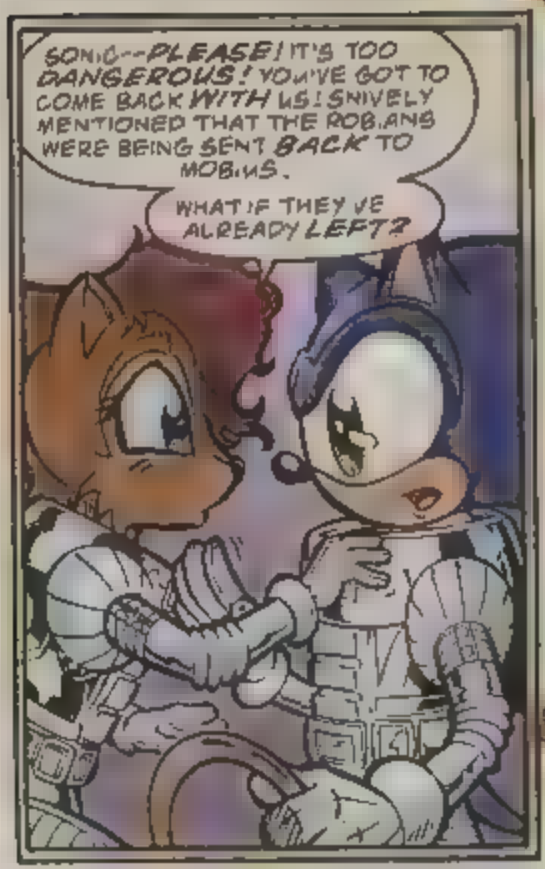
...AND OUR SPACE SHUTTLE WILL ARRIVE IN A FEW MINUTES!

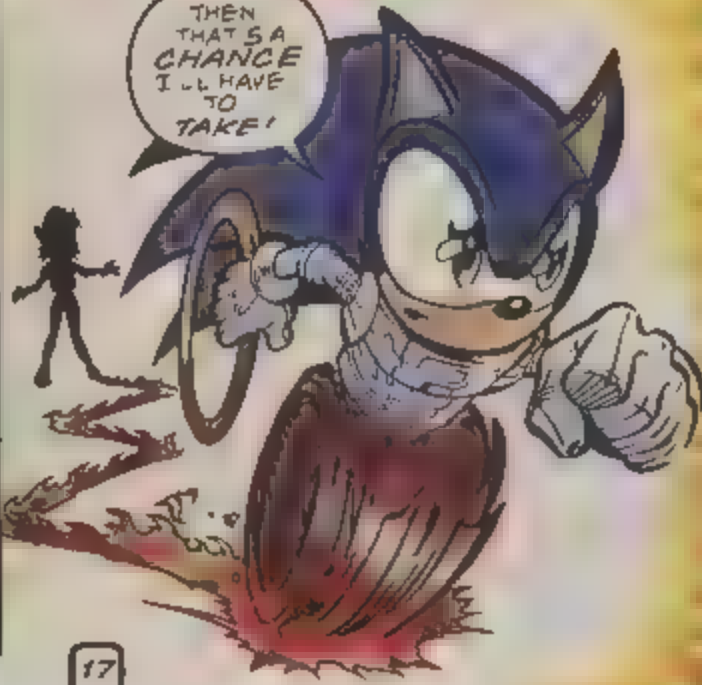

WE'VE ALL EXPERIENCED THE DEVASTATING POWER OF EACH OF ROBOTNIK'S SATELLITES NOW COMBINED AS THEY ARE INTO ONE SUPER-SATELLITE
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HAVOC THAT MADMAN PLANS TO WREAK! THAT'S WHY I HAD THE FORESIGHT TO BRING ALONG THIS EXPLOSIVE DEVICE.
GOOD.

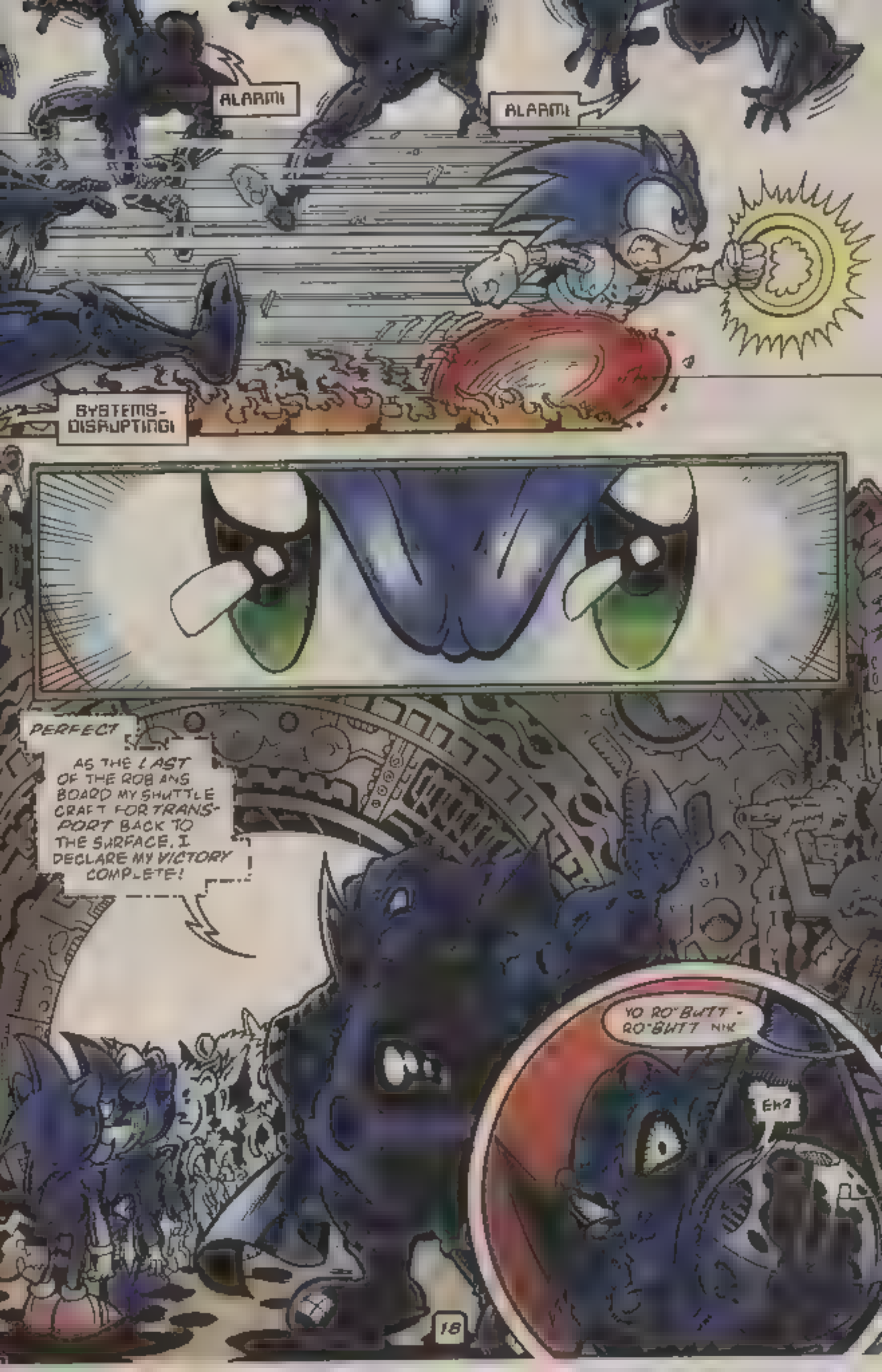

"LOST ISH"-JFG


THIS POWER RING THAT NATE GAVE ME SHOULD BOOST MY SUPER-SPEED LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET MY FAMILY AND MEET YOU ALL AT THE SHUTTLE
THERE'S NO TIME SONIC! THE DEVICE IS TIMED TO BLOW UP THIS ENTIRE SPACE PLATFORM IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES.


THEN IF I'M NOT THERE YOU'LL KNOW THAT I'M RUNNING BEHIND SCHEDULE!


SONIC--PLEASE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK WITH US! SNIVELY MENTIONED THAT THE ROBIANS WERE BEING SENT BACK TO MOBIUS.
WHAT IF THEY'VE ALREADY LEFT?


THEN THAT'S A CHANCE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE!


ALARM!
ALARM!
SYSTEMS-DISRUPTING!
PERFECT
AS THE LAST OF THE ROBANS BOARD MY SHUTTLE CRAFT FOR TRANSPORT BACK TO THE SURFACE. I DECLARE MY VICTORY COMPLETE!
YO RO'BUTT - RO'BUTT NIK
EH?

ARE YOU GONNA STAND AROUND TALKIN TO YOURSELF ALL DAY LONG...
.. OR ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE?
THOUGH SNIVELY HAS NO DOUBT SEEN FIT TO FREE YOU YOU'RE TOO LATE VERMIN!
THE SHUTTLE HAS ALREADY DEPARTED WITH ALL OF THE ROBIANS...
.. INCLUDING YOUR BELOVED RELATIVES!
WELL, AT LEAST THEY WON'T BE AROUND WHEN THIS JOINT BLOWS TO KINGDOM COME!
YOUR TRIPLE SPIN MODE WAS INEFFECTUAL AGAINST MY ROBOTIC HIDE--HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO HURT ME WITH ONLY YOUR BARE HANDS?
KLONG
YOUR FRIENDS ARE GONE, AND SO IS YOUR FAMILY. SONIC ONLY YOU AND I REMAIN ABOARD MY SATELLITE AS THE END DRAWS NEAR!
THINK AGAIN YOU TIN PLATED TYRANT!
KLONK

I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY IT ONCE -- GET OFF OF MY SON

SONIC, ?

NO.

MOM.. DAD..

WE'VE GOTTA JUICE BEFORE THIS WHOLE PLACE GOES KABLOOEY!

SONIC'S PARENTS AREN'T UNDER MY CONTROL! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

WOW! HOW'D YOU TWO GET BACK YOUR FREE WILL?

WE NEVER LOST IT TO BEGIN WITH SON.

WAY PAST COOL! SALLY-- I MADE IT!

WITH ONLY A MINUTE TO SPARE SONIC! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE

..NOW!
000
KRAKA-BOOM

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MOM AND DAD--

--ROBOTNIK'S RETURN REVERTED THE OTHER ROBIANS TO A MINDLESS STATE--HOW COME YOU WEREN'T AFFECTED THE SAME WAY?

WE'RE REALLY NOT SURE, SON

YOU HAD GONE TO CASTLE ACORN TO MEET WITH PRINCESS SALLY LEAVING ME, YOUR MOTHER, YOUR UNCLE CHUCK AND MUTTSKI IN KNOTHOLE VILLAGE.

*Inish #73 JFG

EVERYTHING WAS FINE WHEN SUDDENLY ALL OF THE ROBIANS IN THE COLONY JUST GOT UP AND LEFT IN RESPONSE TO A WEIRD BEACON

"YOUR UNCLE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR US CALL OUT TO HIM, SONIC

THE ANNIVERSARY WEDDING BANDS THAT YOU GAVE YOUR MOTHER AND I* STARTED TO GLOW MORE INTENSELY AT THAT MOMENT AS WELL

WE THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THE POWER RINGS IN THE BANDS AND US KEEPING OUR FREE WILL

*Inish #73 JFG

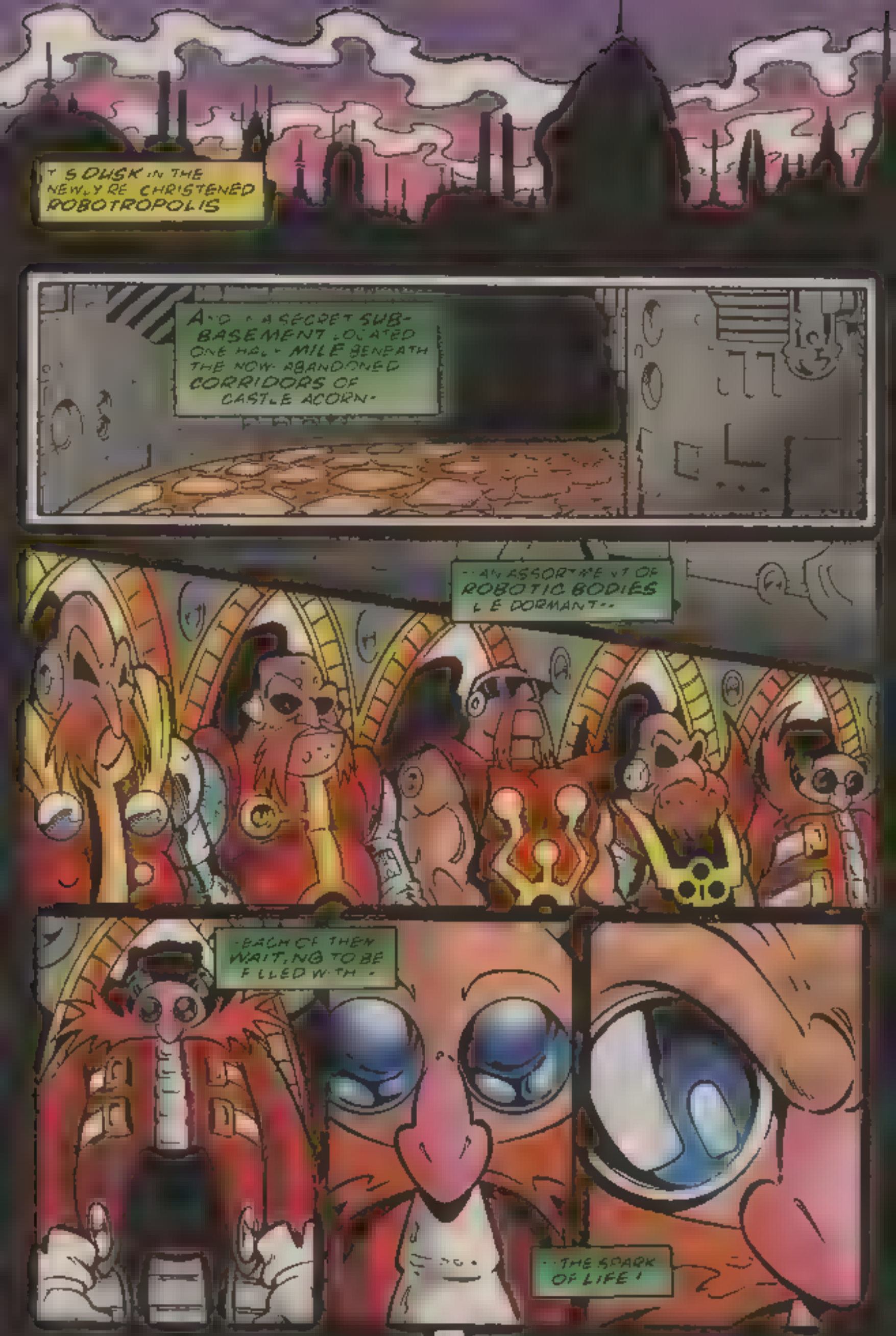
"HOWEVER WE ACTED LIKE WE WERE UNDER THE SAME SPELL AS THE OTHERS SO WE WOULD KNOW WHERE THEY WERE HEADING

"WHEN WE LEARNED THE AWFUL TRUTH WE HAD TO KEEP UP OUR PRETENSE--

--FOR FEAR THAT ROBOTNIK WOULD REMOVE OUR WEDDING BANDS.

YOU DID A FOOLISH THING, SON--BUT WE'RE GLAD YOU GOT US AWAY FROM THERE!

SO AM I. BUT POOR UNCLE CHUCK AND MUTTSKI.


T'S DUSK IN THE NEWLY RE CHRISTENED ROBOTROPOLIS
AND IN A SECRET SUB-BASEMENT LOCATED ONE HALF MILE BENEATH THE NOW-ABANDONED CORRIDORS OF CASTLE ACORN-
--AN ASSORTMENT OF ROBOTIC BODIES LIE DORMANT--
--EACH OF THEM WAITING TO BE FILLED WITH -
--THE SPARK OF LIFE!

IT SHALL TAKE MORE THAN A MERE EXPLOSION TO DO ME IN, SONIC!
THAT I PROMISE!
HA
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After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his smelly factories shut down, order and beauty was restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

SONIC-GRAMS

OFF PANEL **by Gallagher, Manak & Amash**

THIS JUST IN!

What's up, Sonic fans? There are lots and lots of stuff going on so let's get to it. First off, thanks for picking up Sonic's seventy-fifth issue. This truly is a milestone since most books these days have a hard time passing the fifty mark. It's been said before and it will be said again, it could not have been possible without the support of you, the fans! Thank you! Also, my thanks to Karl B., Steven B., Pam E., Jeff P., Frank G., Josh R., Michael G., Dave M., Jim A., & Spaz/Harvo! Of course, we can't forget to thank our favorite SEGA reps, Jane Thompson and Mari Schaal.

This issue also marks the departure of Paul Castiglia as our Promotional Director. Those of you who have been with us since issue #5 know that Paul used to be a Sonic editor. As you can see from the strip above, we were sad to see him go. Seriously, we wish him all the best as he moves on to greener pastures.

This issue also marks the departure of Steven Butler and Pam Eklund as the regular art team on SONIC THE HEDGEHOG. If you are a fan of their artwork, don't worry -- they won't be too far away from the Sonic mythos. They will be taking over the art chores on KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA starting with issue #33. The following is a personal message straight from Steven to you...

"Hi, folks! Steven Butler here saying "bon voyage" to Sonic and crew, while moving to our other title KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA. It's hard to put to words what drawing SONIC THE HEDGEHOG for the past 15 issues has been for me. Let's just put it in a nutshell- "IT'S BEEN A BLAST!" Seriously, coming from a traditional superhero comics background, Sonic presented a unique challenge, as well as a much needed breath of fresh air! I thank Justin and everyone at Archie for giving me the chance to work on this great title, as well as the many fans who have shown their support. You're the real reason we do this stuff in the first place. It's been one wild ride! It's my fondest wish that the same excitement will spill over on to Knuckles. Watch for it! Adios, Amigos!"

With that said, you're probably wondering who will be the new artist on Sonic #76 . Check out the next page for the answer and a glimpse of the artwork.

Catch you on the flip side!

J.F. GABRIE
Editor / Art Director

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

Send letters to: SONIC-GRAMS #75
C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419
E-MAIL: jfreddyg@archiecomics.com
WEBSITE: www.archiecomics.com
SEGA WEBSITE: www.sega.com

COMING ATTRACTIONS!

In two weeks: Guest-starring the ever-popular Princess Sally! Sally pays a visit to The Brotherhood of Guardians on The Floating Island on a diplomatic mission on behalf of her father. Will her mission of mercy succeed or fail? Don't miss this issue-length epic! Check out "My Special Friend" written by Ken Penders with art by Art Mawhinney and Rich Koslowski.

AND NEXT MONTH:

"Business As Usual" written by Karl Bollers. Sonic and The Freedom Fighters are back on Mobius and land in the newly re-christened Robotropolis. Before heading out to Knothole and rejoining the others, they try to accomplish a dangerous mission with the help of... Snively? Also in the next issue, you will witness the debut of FRY as the new penciler for SONIC THE HEDGEHOG! Joining FRY is inker Andrew Pepoy (from Knuckles fame). Check out his pencils below...